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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

DATE DISTR. 19 June 1950

SUBJECT Volkspolizei Unit Transferred
to Potsdam from Kuestrin-Kietz

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
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(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. a. An advance detail of two officers and ten police, detached from the 800 to 1,000-man VP unit in the former **Artillerie Kaserne**, Kuestrin-Kietz [REDACTED] was seen on a Soviet truck leaving for Potsdam [REDACTED]. It was said that the entire VP unit would soon be transferred to Potsdam, allegedly in connection with the forthcoming FDJ (Free German Youth) Whitsun Rally in Berlin.

b. Three units of 120 police each, carrying model 98 K carbines and light machine guns, were observed marching from the Kuestrin-Kietz barracks to the drill ground NW of Reitwein [REDACTED].

c. It was learned at the same time that several VP officers were arrested in Kuestrin-Kietz and that others were transferred to another post. Twenty-five of eighty civilian workers employed in the reconstruction of barracks, storage houses and sheds were allegedly given notice of dismissal at the same time. It was rumored that the arrests, transfers and dismissals were effected after a RIAS broadcast about the Kietz Bereitschaft.

d. A VP officer stated that in the future the barracks will serve as a mess and ration supply point for transient Soviet troops. It is said that the storage houses in the barracks area shelter AT guns and other artillery pieces used in night practice convoys.

2. The following information on the Kuestrin-Kietz VP unit was obtained between [REDACTED]

a. Daily individual training, close-order drill at company level and infantry combat training at platoon level were held between [REDACTED]

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The companies were observed while they were training and it was noted that they were organized into two platoons with carbines and one platoon with assault rifles. Each company numbered about 150 police. (1)

b. Police loaded about 150 cbm of firewood and potatoes at the former Kuestrin-Altschadt railroad station (western bank of the Oder River) on 16 March 1950. Furniture and kitchen kettles were loaded later. Heavy 30 x 30 x 100 - cm boxes, allegedly containing carbines and pistols, were loaded the evening and night of 16 March. Furniture and billeting equipment were loaded the morning of 17 March 1950.

Three police units marched to the Kietz railroad station at about 4 : 45 p.m., followed by two more units at 5 p.m. Three trains, each consisting of eight coaches and 20 boxcars, were assembled, and left toward Berlin at about 8 p.m. A policeman said that the VP unit was being transferred to Potsdam-Liche. (2)

c. Five tractors and three trucks towing eight 150-mm guns, (allegedly medium field howitzers, model 16), left the barracks area toward Berlin at about 8 p.m. on 16 March 1950. Two other tractors and two trucks, towing four 105-mm guns (allegedly light field howitzers, model 16), were observed proceeding in the same direction at 3 p.m. on 17 March 1950. The tractors were from the MAS (communal motor pool). (3)

d. Only a rear detail of 75 police was left in the barracks. Construction work in the barracks was suspended on 16 March 1950.

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~~SECRET~~ Comment :

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(1) Speaking of company and platoon, ~~SECRET~~ presumably refers to "Kommando" and "Abteilung", respectively.

(2) The information confirms a previous report. (4)

(3) An infantry Bereitschaft is known from previous reports to be stationed in Kietz. The report is the first to mention artillery in Kietz. Comparison with a previous report (5) indicates that the artillery Bereitschaften of the Soviet Zone Police may consist of one light and one medium battery.

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